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ABSTRACT

This book describes the creation of new, small, (strictly) public, and relatively autonomous schools that can be chosen by parents, students, and teachers located in Boston and New York City. These schools can be seen as the forerunners of an entirely new and much more democratic American public school system which attempts to achieve genuine educational diversity, innovation, and reform. This stands in sharp contrast to national, authoritarian, standards-based agendas. However, the creation of these schools is requiring massive changes in how local districts are organized and operated. The chapters are: (1) "Introduction: The Educationally Challenged American School District" (Evans Clinchy); (2) "A Journey toward Autonomy" (Linda Nathan, Larry Myatt); (3) "Smarter Charters? Creating Boston's Pilot Schools" (Robert Pearlman); (4) "The State's Role in Shaping a Progressive Vision of Public Education" (Dan French); (5) "A Day in the Life of a Teacher in a Small School" (Meredith Gavrin); (6) "Why Wasn't I Taught This Way?" (Ellalinda Rustique-Forrester); (7) "The Transformation of One Large Urban High School: The Julia Richman Education Complex" (Ann Cook); (8) "Birthing New Visions Schools" (Beth Lief); (9) "School Reform: A System's Approach" (Judith A. Rizzo); (10) "The Role of a Union in School-System Reform" (David Sherman); (11) "Inching toward Reform in New York City: The Coalition Campus Schools Project" (Linda Darling-Hammond, Jacqueline Ancess, Kemly McGregor, David Zuckerman); (12) "Can the Odds Be Changed? What It Will Take To Make Small Schools Ordinary Practice" (Deborah Meier); (13) "Contexts of Productive Learning, Governance, Charter Schools, Pilot Schools, the Creation of Settings, and the Wailing Wall" (Seymour Sarason); and (14) "The New American School District" (Evans Clinchy). An appendix lists nine sources on further information networking and technical assistance. (Contains references in each chapter and an index.) (SV)

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